

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 7. No 1

January 1998

Greensburg, Indiana

♥ ♥ ♥ 37th ANNUAL MEETING ♥ ♥ ♥

♥ DATE: February 14, 1998

♥ PLACE – First Presbyterian Church,
Greensburg

♥ TIME – 6 p.m.

♥ PROGRAM – John Parker will give his wonderful program on three generations of watches his family has collected.

♥ PRICE: – \$ 6.00

♥ RESERVATIONS – Please send your reservation s and check for the meal to Bud Keith, address, 773 E CR 200 N. It's extra work and takes more time if we don't send money with our reservations. Please do not tell him you will pay at the meeting – let's make it a little easier for Bud.

At this annual meeting election of officers will be held. The nominating committee was composed of Gene McCoy, Phyllis Doerflinger, Alice Rust. Nominations will be entertained from the floor. Those nominated by the committee are:

President – Diana Springmier
Vice president – Russell Wilhoit
Recording secretary – Barbara Manus
Treasurer – Dan Anderson

Corresponding secretary and membership
Secretary – Katherine Bailey

Museum volunteer – Jane Keith

Directors – Tony Owens and Gene McCoy

County genealogist – Rosalie Robbins

Bulletin editor – Pat Smith

County historian – Pat Smith

Van Batterton is a permanent director at large. (See 'People' on page 7.)

Member and director, Ruth Dorrel, has prepared some proposed amendments to the society's by-laws. At this

meeting we will hear a report of the by-laws and discuss any changes we may wish to make.

Welcome members::

Terry G. Wilds
Frances Lindner
Irene Wolf
Janet Louise Bedel
Dale Wolter
Jere Sturges

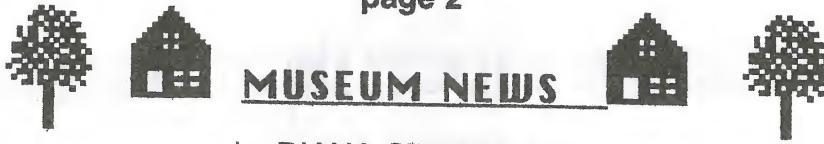
Lifetime members:

Ed E. Deiwert
Janet E. Deiwert
Memorial to Christian Flint Small (Sept. 7, 1897 – December 19, 1992 by Patricia A. Morris, Phoenix, Ariz.
Thank you to Karen Fenley for teaching Ginny Garvey, Jane Keith, Ruth Cash, Nancy Reynolds how to make those marvelous Williamsburg swags for

the Williamsburg Christmas Open House on December 7, 1997. Thank you to George Morgan, Bob Rooker and Bob Doles for the music at the open house – setting the mood for a perfect afternoon. Thank you Gladys Pike for that bread pudding and to members of the committee for those cookies and the punch, truly the "icing on the cake" for the open house. Those of us who simply enjoyed the open house feel richly blessed that these special volunteers are willing to give their time.

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by DIANA SPRINGMIER

The museum has been busy this past fall and during the Christmas season. Ginny Garvey, chairman of the museum displays, and her committee of Jere Sturges and Ruth Cash did an outstanding job of setting up the fall 20th century back-to-school opening of school house quilts, lunch buckets, Tower Tree yearbooks, St. Paul school desks and the huge red base drum, etc... In September and October more than 250 visitors including Jane Brown's North Decatur history class and an antique car club from Whiteland, driving through Greensburg on a fall outing, enjoyed the exhibits.

This same committee prepared a Williamsburg Christmas in decorating the museum for the holidays. Karen Fenley opened up her home and gave her time and talent to teach Ginny Garvey, Jane Keith, Ruth Cash, Nancy Reynolds how to make Williamsburg swags with fresh fruit and Jere Sturgis helped cut the greenery. George Morgan playing the piano, Bob Rooker the trumpet, and Bob Doles as organist furnished the music for the December 7th open house with board members and Gladys Pike preparing the refreshments.

After the flower gardens were nipped by frost, North Franklin Street knew winter was approaching as that bright spot was dulled, hopefully to reappear next spring with a little help. Mary Stradley, a museum neighbor, volunteered to prepare the front yard flower beds for winter. Other volunteers this fall and winter were Barbara Blare, Phyllis Doertlinger, Joyce Springmier, Gladys Pike, Ruth Cash, Ruth Olinger, Lenora Bainbridge, Jere Sturgis, Maurice and Jane Keith, Roy and Jolene Connor, Marjorie Hunter, Van Batterton and Russell and Nancy Wilhoit.

When the box guttering is replaced and other guttering repaired, a renovation of the upstairs rooms and north parlor is being planned.

Again, if you have volunteer time, contact Jane Keith at 663-6451. The museum is open the second Saturday of each month from 1 to 4 p.m. with the exception of this January and February during renovation.



Society members would like to see an item(s) on display from time to time in a window or in a business building. At the December 4, 1997 board meeting it was decided that if anyone takes an item(s) out of the museum to display, repair or for any reason, you must get in touch with Russell Wilhoit who will see that the item is signed out, when, for what purpose and when it is to be returned to the museum. Please be sure to follow this rule..



Phil Jackson gave an excellent program about the Civil War for the fall meeting held at the Greensburg library September 21, 1997. Phil brought pictures of several of the local leaders during that war and told the audience of the contributions made by each. He brought props, including a repeating rifle. Phil has a thorough knowledge of the Civil War and kept his listeners' attention throughout the program. Phil has written about the war for several publications and we were delighted that he was willing to share his knowledge with us in September.

The editor is counting on Phil to do some more writing for the Bulletin as he has done in the past. How about it Phil?

aw, come on!

Below is the deadline for sending material to be included in the Bulletin and the dates when the Bulletin will be mailed. Society members, including the editor of the Bulletin, would be delighted to read your account of some of the events in our county.

How about the first election you remember participating in Morgan Miers? How about writing your mem-

 <u>Deadline</u>
December 5, 1997-
March 5, 1998-----
June 5, 1998-----
September 5, 1998

 <u>Mailed</u>
January 15, 1998
April 15, 1998
July 15, 1998
October 15, 1998

ories of some of the great "characters" who have lived in the county? Aw, come on! Just two little paragraphs!!

 To the lucky person elected **membership secretary**, don't forget, the editor needs the list of new members and new lifetime members, special thanks, gifts to society, memorials etc. by deadline.



Member **Jack Poore** has worked hard on compiling Decatur County basketball into book form. He obviously enjoyed the research because the four books are a great read. It may be that only those who have done some research on any given subject can truly appreciate how much time and effort this has taken Jack but we can all enjoy them. Jack's first book was "Decatur Co. Basketball, 1946 - 1968, Burney Panthers, Clarksburg Knights, Greensburg Pirates, Jackson Tigers, New Point Little Giants, Sandcreek Indians, Sandusky Blackhawks and the St. Paul Blasters."

He has written three more including "Decatur Co. Girls Basketball, 1976 - 1997, Greensburg Pirates, North Decatur Chargers and South Decatur Cougars." The book covers are blue, green, pink and yellow.

His latest book is Decatur Co. Boys Basketball Consolidation Years 1968 - 1997 – Greensburg Pirates, North Decatur Chargers and South Decatur Cougars. In this latest book, Jack also included the years 1930 - 1931.

Jack writes "I was able to dig up the 1930 - 32 season after my early years of Decatur Co. Basketball was printed. This was the year Greensburg captured the Columbus Regional and as there were no semi-finals (the semi-finals would start in 1936) the 16 teams that won regionals would go directly to the state finals held at Butler Fieldhouse. Below is a synopsis of Decatur County teams for 1931. The next ten pages of this 130 page book are devoted to those years..

As with his other books on Decatur Co. basketball scores and leading scorers of both boys and girls games are included along with interesting stories of each season. He also included the boys won and loss records against each school that such team has played over the years.

Jack has given me permission to use some of his material in the Bulletin: The following is just a bit of general information about the years 1930 - 1931.

"This was the year Greensburg captured the Columbus Regional and as there were no semi-finals (The semi-finals would start in 1936) the 16 teams that won regionals would go directly to the state finals held at Butler Fieldhouse. Below is a synopsis of Decatur Co. teams for 1931." **GREENSBURG PIRATES**— Led by Don and Dallas Gilliland, Greensburg . made it to the state finals before being eliminated by Terre Haute Wiley. The Pirates did not allow a team to score over 27 points until Wiley tallied 31 in eliminating Greensburg. The Pirates had to be a very good (cont' next page)

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defensive team as their top point total for the year was the 39 points they scored in their opening game vs. Batesville.

BURNEY PANTHERS Burney settled for a 10 – 8 record.

CLARKSBURG KNIGHTS—Clarksburg's Wilson Davis led the county in single game scoring as he scored 25 points vs. Laurel.

LETTS BEARCATS—Letts after getting off to a slow start won 12 of 13 games before losing to Greensburg in sectional play. The Bearcats finished as runners-up to St. Paul in the Decatur Co. Tourney. The Bearcats 52 points vs. Vernon was the most points scored by a Decatur Co. team. Vernon just played 8 games during the regular season, just enough to be able to play in the I.H.S.A.A tourney.

JACKSON TIGERS—Jackson with Bob Hubbard leading the way made it to the Greensburg sectional finals before losing to the Pirates 29-10.

NEW POINT GIANTS New Point lost 9 of their last 10 games.

SANDUSKY BLACKHAWKS—Lack of scoring punch was a detriment to the 1 Hawks as 32 points was the most points they scored in a game. I

WESTPORT WARRIORS The Warriors were losers of all 14 games.

ST. PAUL BLASTERS—The Blasters finished with a 20 – 4 record and captured the county tourney. Two of the Blaster losses were to Butlerville and New Salem county tourney champs of Jennings and Rush Co. St. Paul won five games decided by three points or less. The Blasters as usual had no trouble with other Decatur Co. teams finishing with an 11 – 0 record. Teams in the Greensburg sectional were the nine Decatur Co. teams and Batesville, Holton, New Marion, Osgood, and Napoleon, all Ripley Co. schools.”

One of the most interesting items in Jack's books are the sidelights for each of the teams, players and/or coaches. For example, in the first book Jack writes “Ray Hern, coach of the sectional-winning Sandcreek Indians, played on one of the first high school teams in Decatur Co. and coached 4 county tournament championship teams. Coach Hern played with Westport in 1911 when the first high school teams were organized in Decatur Co.

“In 1931, while coaching Everton in Fayette Co., his team won the Fayette Co. Championship. In 1938, 1940 and 41 his Scipio crew took top honors in Jennings Co.”

For the 1945-46 Pirates page in the same book, “Ed King was named to the S.C.C. All Conf. Team. Neil Solgere was selected for 2nd. team honors and also led the conference in free throw accuracy, connecting on 72 of 127 free throws for 56.7 %.”

And finally, in the 1952 – 53 Pirates game we can see that Joe Westhafer was the top scorer in the Sectional game with North Vernon, making 21 points and Jim Ryle, the top scorer in the Regional at Shelbyville, making 10 points. .

→ The booster clubs of Greensburg, South Decatur and North Decatur will be selling Jack's books at the games with \$2 going to each school for every book sold. If you want these books, or any one of them, you could contact the schools or Jack Poore at 317-897 - 6636 or write him at JACK POORE, 1438 GOLDEN ROD DR, INDIANAPOLIS IN 47240.

And speaking of Joe Westhafer, he is preparing a program to be given some time in the near future about Simon Kenton. Joe has traveled here and yon digging up fantastic bits of that famous man's history. Society members are really looking forward to this program.



The following recipes are from the Omega Chapter of Tri Kappa Sorority Cook Book. The first edition was published in 1913. After 1,000 copies were sold, the second edition was printed in 1922. Pinnacle flour was milled at the Garland Milling Co. in Greensburg. I personally have never eaten Codfish Foam, nor does it sound like something I'd like to eat but apparently it is reasonably tasty or it wouldn't be in the cook book. And what in heaven's name is a pie plant?

Washington Pie (in honor of our first president)

1/2 cup sugar, 1 cup Pinnacle flour, 1/4 cup milk, 1 egg, 1 tablespoon butter, 1 teaspoon baking powder. Mix and bake. When done, split the cake and put in the following filling:

1 cup milk, 1/2 cup sugar, 1 egg, 2 heaping teaspoons Kingsford corn starch, butter size of walnut. Cook until thick, add flavor. The top of the cake should be iced.

— Mrs. Frank Monfort

Martha Washington Cake (in honor of our first first lady)

1 1/4 lb. sugar, 1 3/4 lb. Pinnacle flour, 1 pint cream, 1 lb. raisins, 2 lemons (grated rind), 1 nutmeg, 1/2 lb. butter, 6 eggs, 1 lb. currants, 1/2 lb. citron, 1 teaspoon mace, 3 teaspoon baking powder, Bake 1 3/4 hours in slow oven.

Mary McCullough, Anderson.

Codfish Foam

Make a sauce of 1 tablespoon butter, 1 tablespoon flour and 1 cup milk. Add 2 large cups of picked and freshened codfish and the beaten whites of 2 eggs. Serve on Toast.

Mrs. Marshall Grover

Pie Plant (under canned goods)

Cut in pieces. Wash and fill glass cans as full as possible. Cover to brim with cold water. Screw lid on tightly.

Mrs. George M. Ewing

Egyptian Filling (under icings and fillings)

To one cup of nuts (chopped fine) add well beaten yolk of 1 egg, 3 tablespoon powdered sugar, 1/2 cup whipped cream, well beaten white of 1 egg and a dash of salt. Spread layers with filling. Coat top and sides with filling and sprinkle with coconut.

Mrs. Ella M. McCoy

Ads for local businesses, as seen below, are also included in the cook book.

"A SPLENDID RECIPE, OPEN AN ACCOUNT
WITH AND PAY YOUR HOUSEKEEPING BILLS
BY CHECK ON GREENSBURG NATIONAL
BANK, GREENSBURG, INDIANA."

American Bakery, Wholesale
CLEANLINESS AND QUALITY
John W. Shoemaker, Proprietor
Bread is your best and cheapest food.
Eat more of it.
American Bakery Split Loaf always good

"You can't make good
things with poor materials.
Pure Extract of Vanilla,
Extract of Lemon,
Cream of Tartar,
Baking Powder,
Spices, Etc.
St John & Guthrie,
The Rexall Drug Store."

Hoosier
Kitchen
Cabinet,
Roll Door
Hoosier
Beauty,
E. A.
Rankin
Furniture
Store."

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On Wednesday, Sept. 30, 1936, the *Greensburg Daily News* printed a **Westport Centennial Souvenir Edition** with the headlines "WESTPORT IS 100 YEARS OLD; CENTENNIAL OBSERVANCE OCT. 3."

This publication had eight pages with each page measuring 11 x 17. It carried a story on page seven titled "MANY COMMITTEES BACK PROJECT," with a subtitle of "Community Club Assumes Lead in the Undertaking."

Inspired by the initiative of women of the Westport Community Club — who voted to sponsor the centennial at a time when it had appeared to have been dropped — numerous committees have been functioning for several weeks in making detailed arrangements for the centennial.

Several months ago interest in the event appeared to be lagging but renewed activity followed when the group of about 100 women belonging to the Westport Community Club announced their sponsorship.

Mrs. E. A. Porter, president of the Westport Community Club, designated a special centennial committee composed of Mrs. Glenn Swengel, chairman; Mrs. Conn Hostetler, Miss Nellie Johnson, Mrs. William Talkington and Mrs. Roy H. Kenady. Co-operating are the other officers of the Community Club, in addition to Mrs. Porter, who are: Mrs. Herbert Low, vice-president; Mrs. Melvin Reidenbach, secretary; Mrs. Russell Foster, treasurer; and Mrs. Roscoe Nicholson, corresponding secretary.

The members of the centennial committee have found generous response among business firms and citizens of Westport. Scores of citizens of that community have been enlisted in connection with the forthcoming event.

Among the committees are the following:

"Miss Westport" committee—Mrs. Adrian Davis, Mrs. Thomas Hause and Mrs. Helen Moore.

Antique display—Mrs. Clifford Davis, chairman; Mrs. Roscoe Nicholson, Mrs. Fred M. Eddleman and Miss Marie Shera.

Picture gallery—Allie Shera, chairman; Kennie Smith, Mrs. Amos Rhodes and Mrs. Rachel Galloway.

Baby parade — Mrs. Conn Hostetler, Mrs. Jonathan Porter and Mrs. Charles Davis.

Bicycle race — Thomas Hause, chairman.

Horseshoe pitching — Everett Narwold, J. L. Alley, Oscar Wasson.

Log-hewing contest — Isom Low, Sr., chairman; Col. A. L. Jessup and Sam Grayson.

Singing school (in costume) — Verne Small, chairman.

Registration tent — Mrs. Lucinda Hostetler and Mrs. John Billieu.

Parade committee — Herman Armstrong, chairman; Lester Biddinger and Glenn Swengel.

Various sub-committees are serving in connection with the parade and the pageant.

The "Miss Westport" contestants were: Gene Porter, Phyllis Stott, Elizabeth Small, Genevieve Williams and Josephine Vawter.

The Centennial Program as of Sept. 30, 1936 was as follows:

Friday, Oct. 2 — 7 p.m., Crowning of "Miss Westport"

Saturday, Oct 3 — 10 a.m., Parade

1 p.m., Band concert

2 p.m., Baby parade

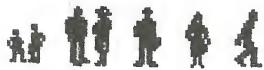
3 p.m., Singing school

4 p.m., Boys' and girls' bicycle races

5 p.m., Log hewing contest

7:30 p.m., Pageant in Six Episodes

Maybe that excellent historian and writer, George Cann, will write more about this Centennial celebration for the next Bulletin. Who won "Miss Westport," and the log hewing contest, etc., George?



People

So that newer and/or younger members may get to know those who are serving the society in various capacities, there will be a brief biography of one of the directors or officers of the organization in each Bulletin. This quarter the featured person is Van Batterton who only recently left the job of the Bulletin editor, having taken on that job at the beginning of 1977.

Van will be leaving the office of corresponding and membership chairman but has been made a permanent director since most of us will continue to seek his advice anyhow. The following information was taken from a tribute given to Van by the South Park Cemetery Board of Directors after he insisted on retiring as president last year. He continues to serve on the board.

Van served as president of the Historical Society of Decatur County for the first time, in 1975.

born in Tucson, Arizona

a graduate of Indiana University

a U.S. Navy Veteran of World War II.

married Vivian Patton in 1953

has one daughter, Suzann

grandfather to two

Served or is serving:

*on the board of directors of South Park Cemetery Assoc. for 41 years – was president for 16 years.

*on the Greensburg City Council

*as Mayor of Greensburg

*appointed to the Indiana Veterans War Memorials Commission by the Governor of Indiana

*served with wife, Vivian, as chairmen of the Decatur Co. Bicentennial Commission

*selected as one of the Chamber of Commerce Person of the Year Award

*wrote a Self Guided Tree Tour of distinctive trees in Greensburg and a walking tour of Greensburg

*was instrumental, with Vivian, in making the society's museum possible in the K of P Building

and in making our present museum a reality

*was instrumental in getting the Courthouse, K of P Theater, the Westport Covered Bridge placed on the National Register of Historic Buildings.

The society has been lucky to have Van and other exceptionally capable and dedicated people willing to give their time to make it a vital and vibrant organization.



The first Bulletin, Vol. 1– No. 1, was dated May 26, 1959 with Paul H Huber as editor. That issue carried the news that Hubert H Hawkins would be the featured speaker at the June meeting. Hawkins was a former professor of history at Butler Univ., He was then director of the Indiana Historical Bureau. His subject for that meeting was "Fun and Frolic on the Frontier." The meeting was held at the Billings Elementary School.

The first Bulletin with Van as editor (he was also president) had a story of **Salt in Indiana:**" It stated: "In *History of Franklin Co., 1915* ... the wells were opened by Benjamin McCarty in 1803 to supply Indian trade. The early hunters in the hills of Monroe Co. found springs of salt water and named the stream into which they flowed 'Salt Creek.' In 1823 men erected huts there and began boiling salt. The Salt Works, became widely known. When the township was organized, it was named Saltcreek. Later wells were sunk, but no great amount of salt produced."

In the April 17, 1977 Bulletin Van included a plea for the **Cottage Hotel**: "The fine landmark, the **Collage Hotel**, just south of the railroad on Broadway, is one of the endangered species of the county. Seems the community could use some type of organization to restore these old buildings." In 1997, it is too late for that building but not for future ones and we now have such an organization – The Decatur Co. Alliance for Preservation (**DeCAP**), which is an attempt to save part of our heritage by trying to preserve architecturally significant properties.

To learn more, contact Greg or Judy Rust at 535 N. Michigan, Greensburg, or call 663-3215.

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....Herb Scheidler

469 E. Main, Greensburg
Ph: 663-6804

1st V. Pres.....Tony Owens

2nd V. Pres.....Russell Wilhoit

Rec. Sec.....Diana Springmier

Cor. Sec. & Treasurer.....Van Batterton

Treas.....Maurice Keith

DIRECTORS

John Parker '97

Gene McCoy '97

Rheadawn Metz '98

Ruth Dorrel '98

Dan Anderson '99

John Westhafer '99

Editor of Bulletin

Pat Smith

122 W. Sheridan
Greensburg, IN 47240

Diana

Russell Wilhoit

RJ

Barbara Evans

Kathryn Bailey

Dan Anderson

MUSEUM TRUSTEES

Jackie Mendenhall '97

Earl Vanderbur '97

Jane Keith '98

Marjorie Hunter '98

Virginia Garvey '99

Viola Minning '99

MUSEUM CURATOR

Russell Wilhoit

663-8277

MUSEUM VOLUNTEERS

Jane Keith

663-6451

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY GENEALOGIST

Rosalie Robbins

COUNTY HISTORIAN

Pat Smith

Chairman of Trustees Alan Beall
Barbara Evans 10 yrs. terms.

Earl Vanderbur - trustee
John Parker - program

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 163
GREENSBURG, IN 47240

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Greensburg, IN 47240

663-7351
Mrs James Carney
505 E Nightingale Dr
Greensburg IN 47240,

Ginny Garvey

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 7. No 2

April 1998

Greensburg, Indiana

The spring meeting of the historical society will be an open house at the museum on N. Franklin. Watch the Daily News and listen to WTRE for date & time. There will be additional improvements to see at the museum and there will be a display of U.S. Military memorabilia and patriotic items from any and all wars. If you have any items you are willing to loan for this display please call **Russell Wilhoit**.



John Parker entertained more than 80 members and guests at the 37th annual meeting February 14, 1998. Parker brought nearly 50 of the nearly 600 watches his family has collected for three generations and kept the audience's attention with his extensive knowledge of the evolution of pocket watches from the 15th century to the present.

He told those present that by the end of the 15th century the spring had replaced the weight in some clocks which allowed them to be built small enough to be carried as pocket watches.

He explained that mainspring devices were not too accurate until the late 1600s, when the balance wheel was introduced.

He showed pocket watches that had been made by, or repaired by, local people and carried by his great grandfather, his grandfather and his father. He also showed some watches that were "Dollar watches" made for a an occasion such as Lindbergh's flight, not meant to be perfect timepieces.

Parker told of the value of certain pocket watches and makes a watch valuable. The most valuable watch in his collection is one that tells the signs of the moon. Unusual watches, either because of the way it was made or because the owner of the watch held special interest, were shown.

His collection includes: a watch that had belonged to a Sister of Oldenburg, a Mason's watch with the jewels and fob on it, one advertising the Stutz Automobile, a Swiss made "repeater" that chimes the hours, and a "coach" watch – used when most people didn't own watches but relied on the large "pocket watch" design specifically made to hang in a coach.

Welcome new members:

Mr & Mrs Owen Tucker
Mr & Mrs Clinton Tucker
Mr John Snedeker
Mrs Virginia Miller
Mrs. Marilyn Tibbetts
Keith Loyd
Mary Ann Fullenkamp
Gladys Pike
Jerry Carey
Delano Moeller
Dorothy F. Petty
Martha Webb
Michelle Anderson
Mrs. Stephen L. Bailey

Donations made to the society:

Ada C. Sullivan
Edgar R. Hon

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by DIANA SPRINGMIER

The museum has again been busy completing the renovation started in early 1997. The Decatur County Foundation awarded us a generous grant of \$5,633.92 after the first of the year which is being used toward repairing walls and ceilings, the paint, paper, and labor for papering the north parlor on the first floor and toward two rooms on the second as well as toward a new furnace this spring. Steve Meyer has completed the papering as well as directing us on rehanging pictures etc.. He has been helpful as one to bounce ideas back and forth in decision making.

Again this years volunteers although not as many due to disabilities prepared the wood-work in the three rooms so they were ready for Steve. Nancy Reynolds, Sharon Wickens and I kept busy for a few weeks. At the same time, Nancy and Russel Wilhoit and their friend, Steve Rogers, converted the downstairs bath into a turn-of-the-century home office. They have spent many hours after their "non-volunteering" work day and also on Saturday mornings making this pleasant change. Dan Anderson, the society's treasurer, lent a hand too. Jane Keith has washed curtains. She also has washed and repaired costumes which will be on display in the bedroom closet, newly painted, papered, and carpeted.

Levenstein's gave us a generous discount on a wall-to-wall Victorian carpet for the Craig coverlet bedroom as well as for the parlor shades which will now be ample in length. No longer will one need to stand on a ladder to roll the too short fully extended blinds up when light needs to enter the room. In the parlor, creme lace curtains and antique-satin sways are hanging below the gold cornices to set off the fresh paper and border.

Speaking of donors, Taff Furniture provided us with an elegant ornately framed mirror at a quite reasonable price which we at the museum do appreciate.. It is placed above the fireplace in the parlor as an appropriate accessory in keeping with the room's history.

The cleaning crew of Sharon Wickens, Rheadawn Metz and Joyce Springmier removed many layers of dust covering the first floor furniture and floors.

Jennifer McNeely, who has worked with the Columbus Museum on their docent program has volunteered to advise us on a program for our museum in the near future. I personally feel this is a direction the museum needs to take so all are more informed when visiting us.

If you have been cleaning the attic or basement this spring and uncover unused china it could be used in the parlor.

Also the recently papered upstairs trophy room" could use an area rug with shades of blue, and old hat boxes would be a welcome addition to the shelf above the closet in the coverlet bedroom.

The museum plans an open house on May 17th at 1:00 p.m. for the society's quarterly gathering so stop by and see the results of the last few months' labors and view Russell's memorial display on the second floor.

In March the Decatur County Public Library display case was arranged with museum memorabilia by Ginny Garvey and Ruth Cash. Thank you for your efforts in presenting an interesting and attractive exhibit.

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I would like to conclude by mentioning the work already being carried out by the society's 1998 officers. Rheadawn Metz is the membership chairman, a newly created office to lessen the corresponding secretary's duties. In a couple of days in February, she had the entire membership on her computer with an up-to-date accounting of those who have paid up dues.

Herb Scheidler will send cards to remind those who haven't paid. Kathryn Bailey, the corresponding secretary who is a newcomer to the board, has been keeping the correspondence current. Another recently-elected board member, Barbara Manus, has been taking minutes since the beginning of the year. Dan Anderson, treasurer, has added duties of handling dues as well as the bills and investments. His expertise in the trust department at Union Bank will be helpful in this position. After ten years of guarding well our finances, Maurice Keith is ready for a rest. Russel Wilhoit, vice president, has been busy with his renovating museum project lately. As usual, I am organizing.

Have a pleasant spring and stop and visit us during open house or the second Saturday of each month. We'll be open for special occasions which will be announced in the local paper. July 4th will definitely be a gathering place after the parade at 212 North Franklin Street.

New officers and directors elected, committees appointed

At the 37th annual meeting Diana Springmier was elected president Other officers elected were, **Russell Wilhoit**, vice president; **Barbara Manus**, recording secretary; **Dan Anderson**, treasurer; **Kathryn Bailey**, membership secretary; **Tony Owens** and **Gene McCoy**, directors; **Van Batterton**, director at large.

Springmier presented special thanks to those who have served in various capacities during the last years and those who have worked to renovate the museum on N. Franklin during 1997. She also announced the committees that : will serve during the coming year.

Joe Westhafer was appointed as program chairman with **Ruth Dorrel**, **Jennifer McNeely** and **Phyllis Doerflinger** serving on the committee.

Dan Anderson was appointed chairman of the finance committee with members **Tony Owens**, **Paul Pank** and **Bud Keith**.

Rheadawn Metz, **Herb Scheidler** and **Frances Metz** were appointed to the membership committee

The museum committee is headed by **Diana Springmier**. **Russell Wilhoit** was appointed as curator and in charge of maintenance. **Ginny Garvey** and **Ruth Cash** are in charge of display at the museum. **Jane Keith** is in charge of museum volunteers.



News from Jane

Note from Jane Keith, Museum Volunteer chairman

To any and all members — Would you like to spend an afternoon or two each month in a beautifully re-decorated Victorian home? If so, please call me and I am certain we can arrange it. We will be starting a docent program this spring to help you become better acquainted with the museum and to be able to answer questions while being a tour guide. Great Fun! Call me,

Jane Keith, at 812-663-6451.

CAN YOU HELP LOCATE A PHOTOGRAPH OF JOHN PARSON,
37th Indiana Infantry Volunteers, Co. E. of Decatur County. I am seeking a photograph of my grandfather, Corporal John Parson (1845-1909) who was a Civil War veteran of Company E. I have never seen a photograph of my dear grandfather who is buried just across the county line in Moscow, Rush county, Indiana. If you have a Co. E. group photograph (perhaps from a reunion) or a portrait photo of John Parson, please call collect my son Chris at 517-332-0988. Thank you very much! Sincerely,
Theresa A. Neville.

A MYSTERY

Edgar R. Hon of McLean, Virginia sent the following story to the historical society asking if it appeared in *The Greensburg Standard* as the copy stated. Van Batterton got right on it and found that it was indeed published on the dates specified: November 10, 1905 and November 24, 1905.

from *The Greensburg Standard*. Nov. 10, 1905

Wm. J. Sitler of Robinson, Illinois, was here on Friday and met with 20 heirs of Reuben LeMaster, one of the pioneer citizens who came to Henry County, Kentucky, in 1830.

Their heirs include Carl and Henry LeMaster, Mrs. Wm. Suttles, Mrs. John Brown, Mrs. Samuel Ewing, Mrs. John Miers, Mrs., Mahala Lawson of this county; Mrs. Wm. Braden of Hartsville, Ind. and others.

Reuben LeMaster's mother is said to have been Catherine Sitler. And was reared in Virginia. She is supposed to have been a granddaughter of Baron von Matthias Sitler, who came from near Munich, Germany and settled in Baltimore about 1750.

Sitler was a titled German and possessed great wealth. During the Revolution he is said to have loaned George Washington \$90,000 to carry on the War for Independence. And was also extensively engaged in manufacturing at Baltimore. It was his foundry that the largest cannons were made.

Sitler died in 1785 leaving 400 acres of land now covered by a part of the City of Baltimore and 6000 acres in the Shenandoah Valley in Virginia, which the government gave him in payment for his loan. He also had a large sum invested in German bonds, in Germany, which was paid and help in trust for the rightful heirs. It is said that in 1845 an agent of the German government came to Baltimore to make a distribution of the estate but was able to find only a part of the heirs. These were anxious to take the money, but he refused to pay them because of lack of a completed genealogy.

Baron von Sitler was a Catholic, but his children departed the faith causing him to lease all his land for a period of 99 years, at the end of which time they renew themselves forever. Those expired over 20 years ago.

Twenty years ago the LeMasters sent a Col. Scobey to Baltimore to examine the records, but he looked for the estate to be in the name of LeMasters, instead of Sitler, and was consequently unable to find anything.

Wm. Sitler of Robinson, Illinois, who is a great grandson of the old Baron von Sitler, has been at work for eight years, locating and proving the rightful heirs and says that he has a complete genealogy of five sons and the seven children. Now he is after the genealogy of the two daughters of which the LeMaster family here claims to be a part.

It is a curious fact that the story of this vast fortune has been told from (cont' on page 5)

One generation to another, but it was not until two years ago when Wm. J. Sitler came here that the prospective heirs could get any clue to it. A long article about this estate was put at \$200,000,000. There are perhaps 400 heirs but even at that many would receive quite a snug fortune if they could get the amount said to be theirs.

from *The Greensburg Standard* Nov. 24. 1905

"The LeMaster - Sitler Society"

The LeMaster-Sitler German Society met in the courthouse in this city on Saturday, Nov. 3, 1905 with W. H. Lawson, president-elect in th chair; Charles Templeton, vice president; L.A. Evans, treasurer, and T.S. Garrison, secretary.

W. J. Sitler of Robinson, Illinois, a great grandson of Baron von Sitler, was present and reported that he had succeeded after eight years of hard work in getting almost a complete genealogy of the descendants of the five sons of Baron von Sitler, who died in Baltimore in 1785, and left an estate which has never been divided and is now estimated to be worth \$250,000,000.

A history of this estate was printed in this paper on Nov. 10 and need not be repeated now. Mr. Sitler said he has ascertained that two granddaughters went to Virginia soon after the death of their grandfather, and the LeMaster heirs in this county have undoubted evidence of the fact that these two sisters married brothers bearing the same name of LeMasters. (Grandfather Baron von Sitler died in 1745.)

The tracing and proving of the descendants of these two daughters will complete the genealogy of the family, and will put matters in shape so that W. J. Sitler can go to Germany and demand a distribution of the wealth held in trust there, as well as prove the rightful heirs to ground leases in Baltimore. There are about 275 heirs scattered over the country. The descendants of Benjamin LeMasters Sr. are urged to send in their names to T.S. Garrison, Hartsville, Indiana for registration in the society. This is important and should be attended to at once.

W.J. Sitler also said that Baron von Sitler was a first cousin to Frederick the Great, King of Prussia from 1740 to 1786. Frederick the Great was the son of Frederick William I and Princess Sophia Dorothea of Hanover.

Sittler, Pa. was founded by Tilghman Sitler sometime after the Civil War. He was instrumental in having a post office established and it was known as Sittler. The town was still existence in 1904 but is not now.

For service, Price and Quality Goods	
Phone 1557	
15 lbs. granulated sugar.....	\$1.00
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Monarch coffee, lb.....	.55c
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Marrow fat beans, lb.....	.18c
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Pink salmon, No 1 tall can.....	.18c
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Woods & Gray	(1926)

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Iblood test. Reduced prices	.60
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phone 4135	Hardware Co.
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(1926)	



Some of you will remember a storm that hit Clarksburg on Sunday, Jan. 16, 1950. The headline in the Daily News was "**Flying Hog House Impe.**" **Three as Storm Hits County. REPORT DAMAGE HIGH ON NEVILLE, DEIWERT FARMS AT CLARKSBURG.**" The story was as follows:

The storm struck farms in the Clarksburg community on Sunday afternoon causing heavy damage. The lives of three persons were in jeopardy when it carried a hog house over their heads after they had been knocked to the ground by the wind.

Striking with a roar about 5 p. m. the "twister" swooped down on the farms owned by C. E. Ziegler and Floyd Deiwert, a mile south of Springhill and 2 1/2 miles west and a mile south of Clarksburg, leaving in its wake damage estimated in hundreds of dollars.

Frank Neville, who lives on the Ziegler farm, and his two sons, Russell, 21, and Billy, 14, were in the barn where they had gone to milk, when they heard the roar of the approaching storm. They fled from the barn and were knocked to the ground by the wind just as the 6x10 foot hog house sailed over their heads and splintered against a fence about 50 feet away.

The storm, which filled the air with debris, came out of the southwest, apparently centered on the farms of the two neighbors before continuing toward Clarksburg where the school was among the buildings hit.

At the Neville farm it twisted the 50-foot-square barn loose from its foundation and moved it about a foot and a half, broke supports, rafters and siding; twisted the garage from its foundation, broke windows and knocked a windmill over; uprooted fruit trees with one barely missing the house; and upset and caused some damage to hog houses and other small buildings. The Neville home, except for a broken pane in a basement window, escaped damage.

The force of the storm picked up an empty metal water tank on the Neville farm and carried it a quarter of a mile away before depositing it on the Max Tetrick farm.

Farmers were commenting on the instinct of animals as they heard the story of 47 head of cattle in the Neville barn which fled a few minutes before the storm struck. There was no report of injury or loss of livestock.

On the adjoining Deiwert farm the storm upset hog houses, brooder houses and chicken houses and converted them to "kindling wood" with the loss of a few chickens. It didn't damage the house or barn. At least 10 hog houses were ruined on the Deiwert farm.

Damage on the two farms we described "as worse than anything except Coatesville". by Mr. Ziegler. At Clarksburg, extensive damage was reported to the Clarksburg school building and at the Bert Fee and Herschel Powers residences. School authorities said that a 20-foot square of built-up asphalt roofing was torn from the gymnasium and a portion of bricks from the southwest corner of the building near the eave was knocked to the ground.

At the south edge of Clarksburg some 20 large trees were either blown out by the roots or broken off on the Fee tenant farm. One large tree was said to have fallen across the front porch of the tenant house.

At the Powers' residence it was reported a post, helping to support the front porch was torn off and a portion of the roof on the front part of the house was damaged. On the Tetrick farm a barn door was torn loose. Felled trees were reported in several parts of the community. Although Clarksburg reported no power failure the rural area was without service from the time of the storm until about 9 o'clock.

The storm, which loomed as a large black cloud with radiating colors, was seen by residents of the St. Maurice community who thought that it had struck in about the Clarksburg vicinity.

The storm dumped over an inch of water in Greensburg and sent temperatures plunging from a high of 60 Sunday to a low of 20 early today. Basements were flooded in the city and streams overflowed.



People

So that newer and/or younger members may get to know those who are serving the society in various capacities, there will be a brief biography of one of the directors, officers or volunteers of the organization in each Bulletin.

Charles Maurice Keith, or "Bud" as he is known to most of us, and **Jane**, his wife of 46 years (as of June 10, 1998) have an interest in history and both have worked on behalf of the society in various capacities.

Bud recently left the office of the treasurer after 10 years but Jane stepped in to serve as museum volunteer coordinator. Both have, as most volunteers do, also worked for the society and museum doing many of the jobs that just keep us going and keep us vibrant.

Both Bud and Jane have ancestors who fought in the Revolutionary War (13 of Bud's ancestors were in that war) and Jane is a member of the Lone Tree Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution and has been an active member in the state and local organization.

Bud's great great grandfather, James H. Keith, died while serving in the Civil War. His widow Susanna Van Treese Keith, and her five children came to Decatur County from Iowa in a covered wagon.

A family story is that one of Bud's ancestors helped build Mount Vernon. Bud is well known for his expertise and love for wood working.

Jane gives programs about quilting and got several residents interested in making quilts through her own work with the quilting needle and through her shop that was on the square and then just off the square for several years.

They are both active in the community and in the Greensburg United Methodist Church.

On Friday, Jan. 12, 1926, Hazel Dixon of Dalmbert's corset dept. left for Chicago for a week of schooling in corsetiering.

Deadline
December 5, 1997
March 5, 1998-----
June 5, 1998-----
September 5, 1998

They are the parents of four children and the grandparents of seven.

The gratitude of the society goes to Bud and Jane who have helped the society in so many ways and will continue to do more than their share in keeping the society strong. In this Bulletin, Jane asks for volunteers for tour guides to show off the redecorated Victorian museum and will begin giving classes so the new volunteers can learn about the home and have fun while giving tours.

Remember the new organization The Decatur Co. Alliance for Preservation (DeCAP), whose members attempt to save part of our heritage by trying to preserve architecturally significant properties.

To learn more, contact Greg or Judy Rust at 535 N. Michigan, Greensburg, or call 663-3215.

SPECIAL NOTICE !

Member of H. S. of D C., Betty Randall, is on the Camp Atterbury committee and asks that members consider the following:

Members of the Camp Atterbury Veterans Memorial and Museum Association are seeking artifacts and memorabilia for use in the new indoor museum being built at Camp Atterbury. The museum will feature displays pertaining to the landowners who lost their land to the camp, civilian workers, P.O.W.'s to Wakeman General Hospital and to the units that have or are training at the camp: W.W. II - 83rd, 92nd, 30th, and 106th; Korean Conflict - 28th and 31st; and today the 38th Divisions.

Anyone wishing to donate items to the museum should send them to or call:

**C W 3 Myles W. Clayburn
Camp Atterbury, Building 1
Edinburgh, IN 46124 - 1096
Phone: 812-526-1103**

Mailed
January 15, 1998
April 15, 1998
July 15, 1998
October 15, 1998



Remember these dates if you have anything to be printed in the Bulletin.

SOCIETY'S OFFICERS

President.....Diana Springmier
(1188 E CR 100 N, Greensburg, Ph: 663-2997)
1st V. Pres.....Russell Wilhoit
Rec. Sec..... Barbara Manus
Cor. Sec.....Kathryn Bailey
Membership Sec.....Rheadawn Metz
Treas.....Dan Anderson

DIRECTORS

Tony Owens	2000
Gene McCoy	2000
Rheadawn Metz	1998
Ruth Dorrel	1998
Dan Anderson	1999
John Westhafer	1999

Van Batterton Director at Large

Editor of Bulletin

Pat Smith
122 W. Sheridan
Greensburg, IN 47240

Museum committee chairman - Diana Springmier

Museum display - Ginny Garvey and Ruth Cash

Museum volunteers - Jane Keith (663-6451)

Program chairman - Joe Westhafer, Ruth Dorrel,
Jennifer McNeely and Phyllis Doerflinger

Finance committee - Dan Anderson, Tony Owens, Paul
Pank and Bud Keith

Membership committee, Rheadawn Metz, Herb
Scheidler and Frances Metz

MUSEUM CURATOR

Russell Wilhoit
663-8277

SOCIETY'S AGENT

William H. Robbins

COUNTY GENEALOGIST

Rosalie Robbins
402 S. Poplar
Greensburg, IN 47240

HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF
DECATUR COUNTY, INC.
P.O. BOX 163
GREENSBURG, IN 47240

Nonprofit Org.

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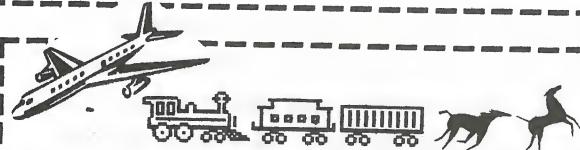
THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 7 No 3

July 1998

Greensburg, Indiana



Come by train, plane, automobile or horse-back, but be sure to come to the

SUMMER MEETING of the society

SUNDAY, AUGUST 9, 1998

at 1:30 p.m. at the

Greensburg/Decatur County Library

Paul Diebold, historian with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, will give a program about what qualifies as a historic place or structure, how one goes about getting a historic place or structure on the register and the economic benefits of historic preservation.

Jennifer McNeely, who has arranged for Mr. Diebold to give this program, said he will give about a 20 minute talk and then will answer our questions. It would probably be a good idea for us to think about the homes, buildings and places in our county that might qualify for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Places. If possible, find out everything you can about the home, building or place so our speaker can give us a better idea of its significance in any. This will be an excellent opportunity to find out why it might or might not qualify.

Plan to come and bring a guest with an interest in this subject or someone who would like to learn about it.

MUCH DESIRED AND/OR NEEDED ITEMS

A HITCHING POST to go with the watering trough once used on the square for watering horses. More about this fine acquisition next quarter. call RUSSELL OR DIANA.



Several wooden, padded or crocheted CLOTHES HANGERS for the clothes at the museum. Wire hangers don't hang as well or protect the clothes as well. Please call JANE KEITH if you can spare some wooden, padded or crocheted hangers.

Welcome new members::

Mr & Mrs Alfred Doles

Patti Green

William Woodfill, Sussex, Wi

June Cook, Charlotte, N.C.

Donations made to the society:

Stuart and Thelma Corya

Helen D. McCord, Catskill, NY

Lifetime members:

Sheldon & Elizabeth Smith

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Museum News
by
DIANA SPRINGMIER

We who are actively involved with the museum have had a busy spring commencing with the work of our display committee. After combing the museum for just the right treasures, the committee, Ginny Garvey, Ruth Cash and Jere Sturges, loaded up their cars and headed to the Greensburg Public Library to recreate a scene from the past. Anchored by a Victorian chair and side table, the exhibit presented a still life of a Greensburg family: the father's top hat resting on a cushion, the mother's velvet cape hung on a hook, and the children's dolls waiting wide-eyed for playtime. Featured, too, were a Craig coverlet, an early album of Decatur County and several photographs and postcards depicting the area. As soon as the committee had finished its job, adjusted the lights and locked the case, patrons began stopping to study the display. And within a few days, the library had asked for a return exhibit later this year.

The May open house was one of those warm, sunny, unusual no-humidity Indiana Sunday afternoons when eighty society members and guests visited with John Owens, a Civil War reenactor who is Nancy Wilhoit's nephew. He had set up his tent on the front lawn and told of and displayed his \$5,000 investment in Civil War memorabilia reproductions.

Visitors were also comfortably browsing through the recently redecorated parlor as the spring breeze rustled the fresh lace curtains. Russel Wilhoit had spent a couple of hours prying open the windows we ladies painted shut during our February volunteer days so all could be cool on the warm day.

The memorial displays were of interest in the upstairs display rooms. There was a clay bust of Kathryn Bailey, a WW 11 nurse who directed operations in a 1,000 bed hospital under tent. The sculptor was a wounded American soldier in her care. Her narrative accompanied the 1944 work of art and made history come to life for those of us who read it as well as viewing the exhibits of Bill Ford and Phil Jackson.

Phyllis Doerflinger arranged for refreshments, made lemonade, serving on the lace-covered dining room table centered with a massive display of varied colored shades of pink peonies from the former Da Batterton home on North Lincoln; in fact some of the flowers were from Isabel's still flourishing bushes. Baking for the open house were Martha McCammon, Beth Beard, Patt Luken and Sharon Wickens.'

The white geraniums in the clay pots on the steps and porch have been donated and placed by Carol Pumphrey. She also directed the planting of the four front gardens with donations from the Psi Iota Psi flower sale. Nancy Wilhoit added the multicolored impatiens to the antique wire planter where they're thriving on the shaded porch. As always Lois Laskowski had lovingly tended her backyard herb garden. There is much to enjoy outside as well as inside the museum.

Groups visiting this spring included the Decatur County Allied Health Group, field trips for 120 North Decatur third graders and for 40 Billings School fourth graders. The sparkling clean rooms were the result of hours of work by Sharon Wickens and Joyce Springmier. Jane Keith washed many costumes which are displayed in the Craig coverlet bedroom which sports new carpet, wallpaper and drapes.

CONTUNIED ON NEXT PAGE

A recent donation on display is from Thelma and Stewart Corya. Stewart's mother's 1920's dresses and a coat are truly a graphic reminder of the Flapper Era.

With the increased visits, the docent program directed by Jennifer McNeely met with the steering committee and Jane Keith will soon be contacting volunteers to help us on weekends making the museum more accessible. It will also be open by appointment. At this point the volunteers showing groups through have been Phyllis Doerflinger, Barbara Manus, Jane Keith, Bill and Marjorie Hunter, Russel Wilhoit, Kathryn Bailey and Ginny Garvey.

POLITICS were FUN ?!

The Republican ratification meeting in June 1884 was called to order by Dyer Elder, chairman of the Decatur County Central Committee, and Gov. Cumback was chosen chairman. Upon taking the chair Mr. Cumback spoke as follows: "Fellow Citizens, this is not a meeting for argument and discussion. We are here to rejoice and ratify. We are not here to abuse the Democrats. We are in too good humor for that. Our National Convention has nominated the man that a majority of the party desired for President of the United States. In other words, they have declared that James G. Blaine is to be the next President.

"Eight years ago I wanted Morton and the convention gave us Hayes. Four years ago I wanted John Sherman but Garfield was the nominee. This year I wanted Ben Harrison but I am here to ratify the nomination of Blaine. After all, what is the difference. Men are only the representatives of principles. The best government is the thing after all that ought to interest us the most. As the Democratic leaders could not cope with Blaine in debate – as they always came from such a contest worsted and defeated – they have tried to crush him with all manner of charges and accusations against him. This is an old trick in politics. These charges have been investigated for eight years and the people have concluded they were only trumped up for campaign purposes and have acquitted him, and will, I have no doubt elect him President of the United States."

(Taken from Decatur County's Will Cumback's speech Saturday, June 14, 1884. Will Cumback was Lt. Governor from 1868 to 1872; cast the electoral vote of Indiana for A. Lincoln in 1860; served as paymaster in the army during the Civil War; state senator in 1866. Lived in G'b on N. Franklin.

Ads below were taken from September 27, 1883 issue of The Decatur Democrat:

A.C. HAZELRIGG
No. 10, West side of Public Square, Greensburg, Ind.,
—Dealers in—

**Drugs, Books, Stationery – Wall Paper, Window
SHADES**

PERFUMERY, SOAPS, COMBS, BRUSHES, TOILET ARTICLES, PAINTS, OILS, VARNISHES, DYE STUFFS, PATENT MEDICINES, WINES AND LIQUORS,
PENS, PENCILS, SLATE, BLANK BOOKS, MEMORANDUM BOOKS AND FANCY STATIONERY.
PHYSICIANS' PRESCRIPTIONS CAREFULLY COMPOUNDED
SCHOOL AND MISCELLANEOUS Books

STEVE ROGERS SENDS CUFFS AND COLLARS

to Indianapolis every other Friday. All who wish their linen laundered in first class style
should call on Steve at M. Grover's drug store.

DNR Archaeology Week

The Indiana Department of Natural Resources, Division of Historic and Archaeology has announced that Indiana's third annual Archaeology Week will be September 14-20, 1998 and you can participate by suggesting and/or planning activities in our area. Suggestions and ideas from last year's Archaeology Week include: museum or lab open house, artifact identification days, lectures, visits to fieldwork projects, training sessions, workshops, slide shows, videos, essay contests. The department ask that we send any activities we are planning to have that week to them at 402 W. Washington St. Room W274, Indianapolis, In 45204 or e-mail them at dhpaa_at_dnrlan@ima.isd.state.in.us. You may also call for further information at (317) 232-1646 or (317) 232-0693 FAX. There will be various activities during the week with a focal day in Indianapolis. It would be a good thing if someone from the society could go and then report to those of us who cannot attend.

Indiana Historical Society web site:

<http://www.ihs1830.org/1hs.htm>.

H-INDIANA H-NET LIST on Indiana History & Studies

from *Communique* a publication of the Indiana Historical Society. "H-INDIANA is a moderated e-mail discussion list sponsored by the Indiana Historical Society and H-Net, Humanities & Social Sciences ON-Line. The aim is to bring together academics, history professionals, and anyone interested in the history of the 19th state to exchange ideas and foster discussion on Indiana's history and culture. H-INDIANA is free and open to everyone with a mature and abiding interest in Indiana history.

For more information about H-Net, write to H-Net@H-net.msu.edu, or point your web browser to <http://www.h-net.msu.edu>.

H-INDIANA can also be found at the H-Net Web Site, located at <http://www.h-net.msu.edu/~indiana>.

To join H-INDIANA, send the following command from the account where you wish to receive mail, to:

listserv@h-net.msu.edu

(with no signatures or styled text) and only this text:

Sub H-INDIANA firstname lastname, institution

Example: sub H-INDIANA Leslie Jones, Pacific State U. Follow the instructions you receive by return mail. If you have questions or experience difficulties in attempting to subscribe, send a message to:

help@h-net.msu.edu

SCHOLARSHIP FUNDS AVAILABLE

The Midwest Museums Conference (MMC) invites our society to apply for support to attend training courses at the Campbell Center. This is funded by a grant from the Institute for Museum and Library Services (IMLS), and MMC offers scholarships for staff development of MMC institutional members. Scholarships are available for any of the collections care and architectural preservation courses offered by Campbell Center.

*Scholarships will cover up to \$500 of the course fee for four or five day sessions, with an additional stipend of \$100 to offset travel costs.

Our museum must be an institutional member of the MMC but museums may apply for the scholarships and become MMC institutional members at the same time so that is not a limitation.

It may be too late this year as the deadline date was June 15 but there's no harm in trying and next year is rolling around fast. The training must be completed by October 1998. Call MMC at (314) 454-3110 or the center at (815) 244-1173 for A Campbell course catalogue.

Editor's note: Many members do not own or use a computer but this Bulletin has some computer related information for those who have access to one. Some members use the computers at the library.

SOCIETY NEWS

(from June 20, 1884)
Clarksburg

Little Scott, son of James H. Tarplee, had his finger almost amputated last week, the result of careless handling of a hatchet in the hands of his older brother.

Mrs. J. G. Winland is visiting relatives at Hope. Delegates from the Kingston, Clarksburg and Spring Hill Sunday Schools will meet at the Christian Church in this place this evening for the purpose of holding the next Sunday School Convention.

The Clarksburg boys, having received several challenges, talk of organizing a baseball club.

Mr. Sharp, who underbid Freeman Rominger for the Clarksburg and Greensburg mail route, will move here next week.

Forest Hill

Farmers are very busy plowing corn.

R. M. Fraley has a new 2:40 trotter, or in other words a "flyer."

J. L. Fraley is at Letts Corner this week, helping his brother in the blacksmith shop.

The proposed pike from Letts to Waynesburg is the principle topic discusses at present.

F. M. Crise has two pets — young coons.

Kingston

'Rah for Blaine and Logan. (*Blaine, from Maine was running for president. Logan, Illinois, was running for vice president. Cleveland won.*)

June 8th and farmers do not know whether they are done planting corn or not.

Here is the market report copied from the Augusta (Ga) Constitutional 1, 1862> Bacon: Sides 36c, hams 40c, shoulders 33c, coffee \$1.25, shirting 35c, lard 36c, nails 20c, powder \$2.50, soap 45c, tea \$5.

County Commissioners should take notice in regard to rustic seats in the Courthouse park. Yes, and cushioned ones at that, not only in the park but on the shady side of the streets as it saves the merchants pine boxes.

Hartsville College

The collegiate year closed the 11th of June. The past year has been the most successful for several years, in numbers and average scholarship. Commencement day occurred on Wed. The college chapel was nearly full of people.

FORWARD THINKER

Twelve years before Orville Wright made the first airplane flight at Kitty Hawk, N.C. on December 17, 1903, marking the beginning of aviation, ISAAC DOLES, a Decatur County native then living in Indianapolis, composed a selection for piano and organ titled "The Air Ship Waltz."

The music was dedicated to the Married Ladies Musicale of Greensburg (organized in 1889) and was published by the Greensburg Review Print in 1891

Doles composed other sheet music and gained recognition as a musician. Another composition was "Knights of Pythias March," published in 1887 and was dedicated to the Greensburg Lodge No. 148 Knights of Pythias.

He also wrote "The Odd Fellows Grand March" which was dedicated to the Decatur Lodge No. 103, I.O.O.F. in Greensburg.

In 1889 Doles published the "Oklahoma Waltz" and dedicated it to Marsh Thomas and his sister, May, who later married Ed Siling.

**Sesqui - Centennial
in 1966**

Indiana's Sesqui-Centennial was celebrated in Decatur County Saturday, August 20 through Sunday, August 28, 1966.

Herb Kohler was the Decatur Co. chairman; Howard Maudlin, film and narration; Norm Voiles, booklet and publicity.

From around the county the area chairmen were Mrs. Elwin Gibson, Burney; Mrs. George Moore, Clarksburg; Wm. Hunter, Greensburg; Mrs. Earl Pohlman, Letts; Mrs. Shirley Wiete, New Point; Mrs. Roger Finley, Rural; Rev. James Austin, Sandusky; Mrs. Berle Gay, St. Paul; Mrs. E. A. Porter, Westport.

The observance in St. Paul was held on October 1 and 2.

Ernie Haston was chairman for the Opening Day: city park and county fairgrounds. Patriotic program with flag raising; color guard from Boy Scout Troop No. 70 sponsored by the First Christian Church. Invocation given by Rev. Gordon Masters and speech by Frank Hamilton. Mayor Sherman Miers gave the welcome and Karen McAuliffe was presented as

continued on next page

Decatur County Sesqui-centennial Queen. Herb Kohler was master of ceremonies. The National Model Railroad Association Convention visited the celebrations the first day and the Westport Railway Museum Equipment was set up near the city park A noon lunch was provided with Harrell Hamilton in charge and those attending were entertained during the afternoon by barbershop quartets, music from the high schools, a replica of an old-fashioned country store. Downtown Greensburg was decorated with a uniform flag display and all the churches rang the church bells at 10 a.m. There was a horse show on the evening of the first day , a square dance and other entertainment.

OBITUARIES

Obituaries are valuable for information about an individual's life but they can also show us what the era in which the person lived was like as far as what they valued. Comparing the style of this obit written in June 1884 with those of today, which would you prefer be printed about yourself or a loved one?

Patrick Ewing entered 76 acres in Clay Township, became a successful stock-raiser and at his death his farm had grown to one whole section of land. Some of his descendants still live in our county, including Margaret Osting, great great granddaughter and his great, great great grandson, Patrick Osting. They still live on the land that Patrick homesteaded.

Patrick Ewing

Was born in Cecil County, Md., in 1803 and at the age of three years came with his father to Kentucky.. In 1826 he was married to Lydia Morgan. About a year after marriage he came with his wife and infant daughter to Decatur County and settled in Clay Township and in the same place has lived ever since.

In his character were to be found the true requisites of the pioneer and amid vicissitudes and reverses that would have crushed a weaker spirit or baffled a less indomitable will, he soon reached a good degree of success in his own business affairs and acquired considerable influence throughout his community.

Following are the names of the the family raised Mr. and Mrs. Ewing and it may truly be said that into the life and character of each is imbued the staunch reliability, clear-mindedness and indomitable pluck that characterized the father:

Sarah J. Ewing, (deceased) married John G. King and left a son who is an editor of considerable note in St. Joseph, Mo.; Mary married to Jesse Howard; Eliza, (deceased) married to John G. King after the death of Sarah J.; Putnam, Abel and Joshua, (triplets) Robert, Cortez, Samuel H., Lydia A., Jas, K., George M., Martha C., Morgan J. and Alice J. All but two of this large circle are alive to-day.

On the 17th day of June 1884, the struggles of Patrick Ewing were ended. The approach of death did not intimidate him. The fortitude that bore up against the varying currents of life enabled him to meet the last foe like a hero. His death is but the natural consummation of a life of toil but in him is lost a soldier who fought not only for his country but for his weaker brethren as well, ever extending sympathy and aid to those about him till at the end of 81 eventful years he died not from any known disease but

"Like a clock worn out with keeping time,
The wheels of weary life at last stood still."

Twelve survivors of the aforementioned sons and daughters, together with the aged mother stood

around the bedside of the dying father and consort of eight years more than half a century, and with tenderest solicitude lightened the distress and smoothed the pathway for the departure of the man who had guided their infant footsteps into life.

The funeral services, conducted by an old pioneer and friend, Rev. Joseph Tarkington, were closed by the touching scene so seldom witnessed, of eight full grown sons bearing away for interment the remains of their aged father.

DeCAP

The Decatur Co. Alliance for Preservation, whose members strive to save part of our heritage by trying to preserve architecturally significant properties can be reached through Greg or Judy Rust at 535 N. Michigan, Greensburg, or call 663-3215.

Arts & Cultural Council

The A & CC has quite a dashing eight page quarterly publication named "Works of Art" edited by Alice Rust and David J. Fry in which they include information about the Tree County Players, the Tree City Gallery and the Historical Society of Decatur

County. Their purpose "is to promote, support and enhance arts and cultural activities through education, exposure and participation." Their e-mail address is arts.council@us.net. Their web page is www.treecity.com/community/org/acc.

We are authorized to announce that Col. M.C. Welsh of Adams is a candidate for Sheriff, subject to decision of the co. Republicans (June 20, 1884)



Deadline

December 5, 1997
March 5, 1998-----
June 5, 1998-----
September 5, 1998



Mailed

January 15, 1998
April 15, 1998
July 15, 1998
October 15, 1998

Remember these dates if you feel generous enough to send material to be included in the Bulletin.

If your dues are due please use this form to send them to the address below.

Historical Society of Decatur County, Inc.
P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240

Due January 1 of each year: Membership: per member - \$5: Life Membership: \$100

RENEWAL

NEW

LIFE

GIFT OR DONATION

NAME _____ ADDRESS _____

CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP CODE _____

MEMORIALS

IN MEMORY OF _____

COMMENTS _____

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(1188 E CR 100 N, Greensburg, Ph: 663-2997)
1st V. Pres.....Russell Wilhoit
Rec. Sec..... Barbara Manus
Cor. Sec.....Kathryn Bailey
Membership Sec.....Rheadawn Metz
Treas.....Dan Anderson

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Tony Owens	2000
Gene McCoy	2000
Rheadawn Metz	1998
Ruth Dorrel	1998
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John Westhafer	1999

Van Batterton Director at Large

Editor of Bulletin

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122 W. Sheridan
Greensburg, In 47240

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663-8277

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Rosalie Robbins
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Diana Springmier
1188 E CR 100 N
Greensburg IN 47240,

THE BULLETIN

THE HISTORICAL SOCIETY OF DECATUR COUNTY

Vol. 7 No 4

October 1998

Greensburg, Indiana

A fall meeting of the society has not been scheduled but be sure to check out the table settings in **October and the Victorian Christmas** decorations during the Christmas season.



The interests of members are varied: local, state, national, world, oral history, folklore, popular history, museums, "buffs" of all kinds of great stuff, reading or writing about it. We all, however, have one common interest i.e. our local society. With the greatest respect, the editor most humbly, even timidly, suggests that the quarterly meetings and/or tours give all the area members an opportunity to come together, socialize, meet the new members, enjoy interesting programs, share ideas as well as share our special interests.

Thank You!

Jane Keith sends a big "thank you!" to all who shared your plastic, padded, or wooden coat hangers with the museum. Jane said the garments are now on those hangers. "It's wonderful knowing the clothes are now hanging in a manner that better protects them from getting out of shape." She said the response to her request was overwhelming.

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The 1963 should have been 1870 and the Steward should have been Stewart. (Just typos, the important fact is that the start of the company was right here in our county.)

The Stewart drug store was on the east side of the square north of the alley in about the middle of that section.

Also in the book: The record size ice cream sundae in Indiana was concocted May 4, 1974 at Batesville by Gib Young of Young's Dairy Queen Brazier, using 2,056 lbs. soft ice cream and 17 gallons of syrup.

Welcome new members:

John R. Owen, Columbus
Don & Maxine Hayes
Tim McFarland
Mrs. John (Carolyn) Flanigan, Virginia
Charity Mitchell
Ronald Woods D.C.
Eunice King
Betty Smith
Bruce Oakley, Indianapolis
Deborah Kilgore-Geis, Seymour
Lucille Wallpe
Babs & Larry Mohnkern
Dr. Larry Weimer (member, 2nd for office)

Donations made to the society:

William F. Smith, Roy and Joleen Connor,
Martha Samuels est., Mrs. James Miller, Ginny
Garvey, Virginia Bower, Steve and Helen
Hamilton

Memorials: in memory of Marian S. Stout
Lawson from Betty Lemmon Shumaker

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5. The Spencer Repeating Rifle by Phillip Jackson Jr.
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MUSEUM NEWS

by Diana Springmier

As an interest in visiting the museum has increased in the community, the few of us who have been manning the ship turned to our society membership for volunteer help and have not been disappointed. Thirty-two members carried their lawn chairs over and on a warm, breezy late July weekend , they participated in one of three workshops conducted by **Jennifer McNeely**, the historical society's publicity chairman, under the white birch tree on the front lawn, followed by a tour of the museum and grounds. As it becomes generally known that the museum is open on a regular basis Saturday, 10-p.m.-1 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m., the museum committee feels that more visitors will be viewing the changing displays.

These displays result from the talents and time given to the museum by display co-chairmen, **Ginny Garvey** and **Ruth Cash**. They shared their personal collections in setting up the July 4th patriotic memorabilia. Adding to Greensburg's spirited traditional Fourth, **Russell Wilhoit** constructed an old-fashioned lemonade stand from orange crates, and society members' grandsons sold lemonade on the lawn to the 150 guests who stopped to visit friends and family after the parade. **Helen Hamilton** pitched in and shared her antique button collection over the Labor Day holiday along with the thimble collection of **Dotti Bilbrey** and numerous sewing baskets, darning eggs and a rare sewing bird. This month's display is an attractively presented table setting ranging from Depression glass to Haviland pieces in the 1910 Romweber dining room.

Ginny and **Ruth** have planned a year of exhibits for the museum and would appreciate loans of historical value from you, the membership, for the following displays:

February - dolls, valentines, wedding dresses

April-May - baskets, basket quilts

May-June - military items for Memorial Day

July- patriotic memorabilia

August- gardening items

They also are seeking items for a permanent display connecting the Grand Hotel and its early owner, **Stewart Woodfill**, of Greensburg and **Carl Fisher**, founder of the Indianapolis 500 Race Track, also a Decatur County native.

Call **Ginny** (663-2132) if you would like to share any of the above as soon as possible so display plans can be finalized.

Recent museum donations have been from **Roy and Joleen Connor**, **Helen and Steve Hamilton**, **Mrs. James Miller**, **Ginny Garvey**, **Virginia Bower** (Shelbyvile), and the **Martha Samuels** estate. When items are donated, the museum reserves the right to display, store, or dispose of, but would try to accept only those items that can be used at some future time – since storage is at a premium in our facility.

Much excitement centered around the museum's first wedding August 11 when members, Harry and Irene Kreiger's daughter **Rebecca Jane**, Taiwan, and **Michael John Cottingham**, Boston, England, were married by society member, **Judge John Westhafer**, in the North Parlor. The bride's great-great grandparents had been married in front of the marble fireplace in 1911. Following the ceremony, the bridal party's pictures were taken on the porch and lawn with the entire family on the porch steps, flanked by pots of white geraniums and varied thriving garden flowers. **Pat Smith** wrote a vividly descriptive front page Daily News article about the event accompanied by **Geoff Witt**'s picture of the bride and groom and an insert of the bride's ancestors, **Myrtle Davis** and **John Frederick Redeker**'s wedding portrait eighty-seven years ago.

continued on page 3

After the groom's responsibilities ended, he immediately bounded toward the square with a video camera to tape the downtown to send home to his parents in England.

Air conditioning has been completed on the first floor to protect artifacts and add to visitors' comforts and a Victorian wood screen door, designed and built by **Steve Rogers** completes the plans for the porch.

Stop in during regular hours or call one of the museum committee members for a appointment. **Jane Keith**, volunteer chairman, would also welcome a call if you have extra time to share the museum with guests.

LIMITED EDITION ORNAMENT NEWS!

Tony Owens has informed us that the 6th in the series of the society's Christmas ornament will be here in early October. This year's ornament is Navy Blue Matte with White and Gold lettering and picture.. The price is \$7 and the ornament will be available at the IGA service desk or you may call Tony at home at 663-8203 or at work at 663-2347. Tony said he is looking for a location to Hunter Pharmacy and asks that you watch the newspaper and listen to WTRE for the selling sites during the holiday season.

Subject for this year's ornament is the monument for Center of Population of the United States which was in Sandcreek Township in 1990. The monument was erected by the Chicago Herald. A picture of the monument is on one side with information in a circle around the monument and the other side gives additional information.



Paul Diebold, historian with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, gave an interesting and most informative program at the Aug. 9 summer meeting. Diebold told the group what qualifies for listing on the register and what advantages there might be in listing a property. We are grateful to Paul Diebold for his willingness to spend his time to inform and assist us.

THE SEVEN LOCATIONS LISTED IN DECATUR COUNTY ARE AS FOLLOWS

■ Decatur County Courthouse built in 1860, listed in 1973

■ Knights of Pythias Building and Theatre, built in 1899, listed in 1978

■ Westport Covered Bridge, built in 1880, listed in 1982

■ Bromwell Wire Works, built in 1903, listed in 1990

■ Strauther Van Pleak Round Barn, built in 1914, listed in 1993

■ Greensburg Carnegie Library, built in 1904, listed in 1995

■ Greensburg Downtown Historic District built between 1854-1945, listed in 1995

"The Real Auto Pioneer, The Practical Model T" by Bob Mitchell

Is it too early? 75 years isn't very long. But many people today don't know the really history making automobiles." They don't remember the one automobile, that shaped the industry to come.

I learned to drive in a 1918 Dodge touring car. It was an "all weather" car which meant it had celluloid side curtains which didn't leak unless it was raining.

My second experience was with a seven passenger, 1913 Jordan which also had side curtains that leaked. Jump seats folded out of the backs of the front seats and the number "seven" was only a suggestion. It had a "split" windshield framed with wood, through which someone had improvised a "wiper." This "wiper" was a bit of felt on a stick which was attached by a stiff wire through the top frame. A bend in the wire made a bit of a handle with which an experienced operator could swipe the felt stick back and forth. (this 'manual' wiper was invented in 1916) It sounds like workable idea, but my recollection is that driving in the rain was accomplished by cranking the upper glass up and looking between the two panes. We didn't drive in the rain much.

These may sound like automobiles that shaped the future - but I say "not so."

Just 75 years ago the future of the auto age was influenced not by the Dodges, Jordans, Franklins, Whippets, Lelands, Pierce Arrows, Overlands, Stanley Steamers, Packards or any of the dozens of era.

I overheard a conversation just the other day that made me realize that in just 75 years – less than a generation — the forerunner of today's traffic jams had been forgotten. Actually "forgotten" isn't the correct word. The dominate generation of today never "Knew" the real auto pioneer.

We're speaking, of course of the Ford Model T. There was a riddle, still being asked, that comes from this era. "If you are driving up the East Peoria hill and your car stops – what kind of a car were you driving-- and what do you do about it?" For the uninitiated the answer is simple – "you were driving a Model T. and you 'fixed' it by turning around and backing up the hill."

The Model T was a practical car. The gas tank was mounted in front of the windshield and above the engine. That eliminated the need for a carburetor when gravity fed gasoline directly to the engine. Driving up a steep hill, like the one east out of Peoria, the engine being higher than the tank would starve for gas. Turning around and backing up changed the levels. It took a strong right (or left) leg to back up the quarter mile hill, as the Model T didn't have the luxury of "lock in" on the reverse band

The Model T was a great "hands on" learning device.

What we call, today, the emergency brake when set half way back compares with what we know as "neutral" - this was the setting when ready to "crank" the engine. The starting procedure was a ritual that was never changed. "Set the throttle - about 3 notches not too far down. (the throttle lever was on the right side of the steering column under the steering wheel) then the "spark" on-the left side was "set." Experience was the only teacher for the setting of the Spark. The lever was on the left side of the column under the wheel and every car - every condition - every idiosyncrasy - had its own special notch to which the engine would respond.

The next move was to hook your finger into the loop of the little wire pushing out the front, under the radiator. Pulling this wire a bit too little or too much - too short a time - too long a time was the same as assuring lots of "cranking" exercise.

Oh yes Cranking. That lesson begins with the proper hand position. The thumb was securely folded under the palm. The thumb was not a part of the actual cranking. The thumb on the gripping side of the crank handle has resulted in many a broken thumb, wrist and/or arm. There were some who said a Model T, like



1918 Ford, Model T, Sedan, HAC

the work animal before it, the mule, responded only to the owner's particular words, inflection or mood.

Exercise was assured with most start-up operations When the engine made coughing sounds the dash around to the spark lever was crucial to the success of the effort. Only after the proper feel of the spark, and the balance of the throttle levers could assure one of continued purring.

Now Passenger(s) were boarded.

There are a few items of information that have been lost to the generation that now knows cars, but not Model T's.

The "parking" lever was never to be trusted. It earned that distinction many times over. A **rock under a wheel was safer.**

Head gaskets were 72 cents a dozen, and I never knew a "T" model that didn't have a warped "head." Perhaps the factory fresh ones were flat milled, but I would not know about that. At any rate every boy could change a gasket in about 10 minutes. Sometimes you put in two, which lasted a bit longer, but cheated on power.

I still have the dealer's statement showing the total price \$36. and credit for \$11, leaving \$25 – my first "buying on time!" Where I got the \$11, I don't remember.Bob Mitchell

Today's drivers know that a "squeak" means bad news somewhere, but in the "T" model it only meant a trip to Walnut creek to soak the **wood wheels**. Water instead of oil was the solution of the day.

Now speaking of **water** --- all model "T's" leaked! It was a rite of passage and some owners even carried jugs of water. Before the days of "stop leak" we used flax seed. When flax seed was added to the radiator it swelled up and found the nearest escape route to plug. The bigger the leak - the more flax seed.

Tires. Patch kits were standard equipment. A tin box with a small tube of cement, a tiny scraper and a surely of 1x1 rubber patches did the trick. All high school boys, and some girls, were experienced at jacking the car, pulling the tube, and finding the leak. By the way it was usually easier to do this with the wheel attached. rather than removing it. A ratchet jack and a stand-up air pump fit under the seat. If test water wasn't readily available spit would do.

An "**ugga**" horn was the "T" model's voice although there was one model that had a kind of a crank lever squawk but I don't remember how that worked.

The finishing touch was to put the saxophone behind the seat before your girl got in.

Oh. The model T was a memory everyone should have.

"The Spencer Repeating Rifle: Additional Information"

By: Phillip Jackson, Jr.

As a result of many very good questions I was asked about my Model 1860 Spencer Repeating Rifle which was part of the Memorial Day displays at the Historical Society Museum, I have decided to take time to write a piece for the Bulletin with more information about the Spencer.

Many people were surprised to learn a Spencer Rifle with a 30 inch barrel weighs ten pounds. As an extension of this fact some ; people thought John T. Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade, since it rode horses, would be armed with Spencer Carbines with their shorter barrels and lighter weight.

The answer to these observations is the fact that Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade pioneered the use of Spencers in any form during the Civil War and Spencer Rifles with long, 30 inch barrels were what the Spencer Repeating Rifle Company manufactured first, and had available, when the Lightning Brigade was armed with Spencers.

An interesting additional note here is that my Spencer Rifle has a serial number approximately 150 digits lower than what is believed to be the very first pre-production prototype Spencer Carbine, which carried a rifle serial number.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

It was learned that Spencer Rifles were basically oversized and over weighted for mounted use, and thus carbines for Cavalry use began production and eventually far outnumbered the quantity of Spencer Rifles produced.

But Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade was without question armed with Spencer Rifles. Carbines were not in production yet. General Wilder's personal Spencer was a rifle. And all photographs (2) of members of Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade show the men armed with long barreled Spencer Repeating Rifles.

Some historians, when writing erroneously that Wilder's men were armed with Spencer Carbines, must not be aware of these basic facts.

The Model 1860 Spencer Repeating Carbine with short barrel weighs about eight pounds and fires the same .56-.56 copper cased rimfire cartridge as do Model 1860 Spencer Repeating Rifles. Later Spencers were chambered for other cartridges, but these other Spencers were post-Civil War production.

Another good question I have been asked is, wasn't there some similarity between the Spencer and the Sharps Rifles? The Sharps Rifles and Spencer Rifles used during the Civil War have a very similar look. Both have barrels 30 inches long with forearms that extend to within a few inches of the muzzles. Both are "lever action" rifles. But the Sharps is a single-shot breechloading rifle, not a repeater. The action on a Sharps is called a falling block.

During the Civil War the Sharps, like the Spencer, came in two forms, carbine and rifle. The Sharps Carbine ranks second to the Spencer Carbine in the total number used by Union Cavalry. While the Sharps Rifle is thought of as a "Sharpshooter's" rifle, in other words, a long range sniper's rifle.

Sharps Rifles and Carbines from the Civil War do not fire metallic cartridges. They are percussion firearms and require percussion caps, or a special Sharps device that takes the place of a percussion cap, to fire their cartridges, which are wrapped either in cloth or paper.

Later Sharps Rifles from the 1870s used for long range target shooting and buffalo hunting fired huge centerfire cartridges, some reaching amazing lengths and firing up to .50 caliber bullets, while carrying large loads of black powder.

Sharps breechloading single shot Rifles and Carbines were very important for the Union Armies. But the total number of Spencers far outnumbers the total quantity of Sharps Rifles and Carbines used during the Civil War.

While another important point to realize is that the number of Spencers used during the Civil War, in both Rifle and Carbine form, also outnumbers the total quantity of Henry Rifles used, in this case about ten to one. The Spencer's cartridge was also considerably more powerful than a Henry's. The Henry Rifle is the ancestor of the Winchester.

And the Colt Revolving Rifle, another Civil War repeater, was not produced in very large numbers and was very heavy and also very dangerous because of its tendency to "chain fire" which resulted in serious injury to the shooter.

The Spencer Repeating Rifle is the premier small arm of the Civil War. And Greensburg's own General John T. Wilder introduced its use in large numbers, ushered in new and modern combat methods, and developed from theory to practice the tactics which ultimately led to Union victory.

At a later time I intend to explain some important ideas on how Greensburg and Decatur County can capitalize on the importance of John T. Wilder and our loyal Civil War era citizenry and turn these historic facts into a major tourist attraction and object of local pride.

The Spencer Repeating Rifle is the premier small arm of the Civil War. And Greensburg's own General John T. Wilder introduced its use in large numbers...

Phillip Jackson Jr.

TREE Theatre

Tonight last time (Monday, January 16, 1950)

Pests That Came to Dinner

Wednesday and Thursday
Fred MacMurray - Sylvia Sidney -

Henry Fonda in

TRAIL OF THE LONESOME PINE

Color by Technicolor

Special Agent

William Eythe, George Reeves, Laura Elliot and
Carole Mathews

News and "Skiing is Believing"

K of P Theatre

Last time Tonight (Jan. 16, 1950)

Humphrey Bogart in Tokyo Joe

Tues. Wed. Thurs.
Bob Hope

" The Great Lover

with Rhonda Fleming, Roland Culver and
Roland Young

News and Other Selected Shorts

I am truly grateful to Bob Mitchell and Phillip Jackson Jr. for their contribution for this Bulletin and always to Diana for her descriptive narrative about the museum activities. As you will surely agree, the contributions help improve The Bulletin. I wish you would consider sending in some of your own thoughts. If you write like Hemingway - fine, but we'd enjoy reading it in your own style. That's the best style going. Please also send your suggestions for the Bulletin to Pat Smith, 122 W. Sheridan, Greensburg, IN 47240.

Easy Method Furniture

Polish .. 25 cs

Kremo metal polish .15 ct

E. G. Schultz & Co.

West Main

Greensburg (1914)



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Bruce Oakley, Indianapolis

Deborah Kilgore-Geis, Seymour

Lucille Wallpe

Babs & Larry Mohnkern

Dr. Larry Weimer (member, 2nd for office)

Donations made to the society:

William F. Smith, Roy and Joleen Connor,

Martha Samuels est., Mrs. James Miller, Ginny

Garvey, Virginia Bower, Steve and Helen

Hamilton

Memorials: in memory of Marian S. Stout

Lawson from Betty Lemmon Shumaker

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MUSEUM NEWS

by Diana Springmier

As an interest in visiting the museum has increased in the community, the few of us who have been manning the ship turned to our society membership for volunteer help and have not been disappointed. Thirty-two members carried their lawn chairs over and on a warm, breezy late July weekend , they participated in one of three workshops conducted by **Jennifer McNeely**, the historical society's publicity chairman, under the white birch tree on the front lawn, followed by a tour of the museum and grounds. As it becomes generally known that the museum is open on a regular basis Saturday, 10-p.m.-1 p.m. and Sunday, 1-4 p.m., the museum committee feels that more visitors will be viewing the changing displays.

These displays result from the talents and time given to the museum by display co-chairmen, **Ginny Garvey** and **Ruth Cash**. They shared their personal collections in setting up the July 4th patriotic memorabilia. Adding to Greensburg's spirited traditional Fourth, **Russell Wilhoit** constructed an old-fashioned lemonade stand from orange crates, and society members' grandsons sold lemonade on the lawn to the 150 guests who stopped to visit friends and family after the parade. **Helen Hamilton** pitched in and shared her antique button collection over the Labor Day holiday along with the thimble collection of **Dotti Bilbrey** and numerous sewing baskets, darning eggs and a rare sewing bird. This month's display is an attractively presented table setting ranging from Depression glass to Haviland pieces in the 1910 Romweber dining room.

Ginny and **Ruth** have planned a year of exhibits for the museum and would appreciate loans of historical value from you, the membership, for the following displays:

February - dolls, valentines, wedding dresses

April-May - baskets, basket quilts

May-June - military items for Memorial Day

July- patriotic memorabilia

August- gardening items

They also are seeking items for a permanent display connecting the Grand Hotel and its early owner, **Stewart Woodfill**, of Greensburg and **Carl Fisher**, founder of the Indianapolis 500 Race Track, also a Decatur County native.

Call **Ginny** (663-2132) if you would like to share any of the above as soon as possible so display plans can be finalized.

Recent museum donations have been from **Roy and Joleen Connor**, **Helen and Steve Hamilton**, **Mrs. James Miller**, **Ginny Garvey**, **Virginia Bower** (Shelbyville), and the **Martha Samuels** estate. When items are donated, the museum reserves the right to display, store, or dispose of, but would try to accept only those items that can be used at some future time – since storage is at a premium in our facility.

Much excitement centered around the museum's first wedding August 11 when members, Harry and Irene Kreiger's daughter **Rebecca Jane**, Taiwan, and **Michael John Cottingham**, Boston, England, were married by society member, **Judge John Westhafer**, in the North Parlor. The bride's great-great grandparents had been married in front of the marble fireplace in 1911. Following the ceremony, the bridal party's pictures were taken on the porch and lawn with the entire family on the porch steps, flanked by pots of white geraniums and varied thriving garden flowers. **Pat Smith** wrote a vividly descriptive front page Daily News article about the event accompanied by **Geoff Witt**'s picture of the bride and groom and an insert of the bride's ancestors, **Myrtle Davis** and **John Frederick Redeker**'s wedding portrait eighty-seven years ago.

After the groom's responsibilities ended, he immediately bounded toward the square with a video camera to tape the downtown to send home to his parents in England.

Air conditioning has been completed on the first floor to protect artifacts and add to visitors' comforts and a Victorian wood screen door, designed and built by **Steve Rogers** completes the plans for the porch.

Stop in during regular hours or call one of the museum committee members for an appointment. **Jane Keith**, volunteer chairman, would also welcome a call if you have extra time to share the museum with guests.

LIMITED EDITION ORNAMENT NEWS!

Tony Owens has informed us that the 6th in the series of the society's Christmas ornament will be here in early October. This year's ornament is Navy Blue Matte with White and Gold lettering and picture.. The price is \$7 and the ornament will be available at the IGA service desk or you may call Tony at home at 663-8203 or at work at 663-2347. Tony said he is looking for a location to Hunter Pharmacy and asks that you watch the newspaper and listen to WTRE for the selling sites during the holiday season.

Subject for this year's ornament is the monument for Center of Population of the United States which was in Sandcreek Township in 1990. The monument was erected by the Chicago Herald. A picture of the monument is on one side with information in a circle around the monument and the other side gives additional information.



Paul Diebold, historian with the Indiana Division of Historic Preservation and Archeology, gave an interesting and most informative program at the Aug. 9 summer meeting. Diebold told the group what qualifies for listing on the register and what advantages there might be in listing a property. We are grateful to Paul Diebold for his willingness to spend his time to inform and assist us.

THE SEVEN LOCATIONS LISTED IN DECATUR COUNTY ARE AS FOLLOWS

■ Decatur County Courthouse built in 1860, listed in 1973

■ Knights of Pythias Building and Theatre, built in 1899, listed in 1978

■ Westport Covered Bridge, built in 1880, listed in 1982

■ Bromwell Wire Works, built in 1903, listed in 1990

■ Strauther Van Pleak Round Barn, built in 1914, listed in 1993

■ Greensburg Carnegie Library, built in 1904, listed in 1995

■ Greensburg Downtown Historic District built between 1854-1945, listed in 1995

"The Real Auto Pioneer, The Practical Model T" by Bob Mitchell

Is it too early? 75 years isn't very long. But many people today don't know the really history making "automobiles." They don't remember the one automobile, that shaped the industry to come.

I learned to drive in a 1918 Dodge touring car. It was an "all weather" car which meant it had celluloid side curtains which didn't leak unless it was raining.

My second experience was with a seven passenger, 1913 Jordan which also had side curtains that leaked. Jump seats folded out of the backs of the front seats and the number "seven" was only a suggestion. It had a "split" windshield framed with wood, through which someone had improvised a "wiper." This "wiper" was a bit of felt on a stick which was attached by a stiff wire through the top frame. A bend in the wire made a bit of a handle with which an experienced operator could swipe the felt stick back and forth. (this 'manual' wiper was invented in 1916) It sounds like workable idea, but my recollection is that driving in the rain was accomplished by cranking the upper glass up and looking between the two panes. We didn't drive in the rain much.

These may sound like automobiles that shaped the future - but I say "not so."

Just 75 years ago the future of the auto age was influenced not by the Dodges, Jordans, Franklins, Whippets, Lelands, Pierce Arrows, Overlands, Stanley Steamers, Packards or any of the dozens of era.

I overheard a conversation just the other day that made me realize that in just 75 years – less than a generation — the forerunner of today's traffic jams had been forgotten. Actually "forgotten" isn't the correct word. The dominate generation of today never "Knew" the real auto pioneer.

We're speaking, of course of the Ford Model T. There was a riddle, still being asked, that comes from this era. "If you are driving up the East Peoria hill and your car stops – what kind of a car were you driving-- and what do you do about it?" For the uninitiated the answer is simple – "you were driving a Model T. and you 'fixed' it by turning around and backing up the hill."

The Model T was a practical car. The gas tank was mounted in front of the windshield and above the engine. That eliminated the need for a carburetor when gravity fed gasoline directly to the engine. Driving up a steep hill, like the one east out of Peoria, the engine being higher than the tank would starve for gas. Turning around and backing up changed the levels. It took a strong right (or left) leg to back up the quarter mile hill, as the Model T didn't have the luxury of "lock in" on the reverse band

The Model T was a great "hands on" learning device.

What we call, today, the emergency brake when set half way back compares with what we know as "neutral" - this was the setting when ready to "crank" the engine. The starting procedure was a ritual that was never changed. "Set the throttle - about 3 notches not too far down. (the throttle lever was on the right side of the steering column under the steering wheel) then the "spark" on-the left side was "set." Experience was the only teacher for the setting of the Spark. The lever was on the left side of the column under the wheel and every car - every condition - every idiosyncrasy - had its own special notch to which the engine would respond.

The next move was to hook your finger into the loop of the little wire pushing out the front, under the radiator. Pulling this wire a bit too little or too much - too short a time - too long a time was the same as assuring lots of "cranking" exercise.

Oh yes Cranking. That lesson begins with the proper hand position. The thumb was securely folded under the palm. The thumb was not a part of the actual cranking. The thumb on the gripping side of the crank handle has resulted in many a broken thumb, wrist and/or arm. There were some who said a Model T, like



CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

the work animal before it, the mule, responded only to the owner's particular words, inflection or mood.

Exercise was assured with most start-up operations When the engine made coughing sounds the dash around to the spark lever was crucial to the success of the effort. Only after the proper feel of the spark, and the balance of the throttle levers could assure one of continued purring.

Now Passenger(s) were boarded.

There are a few items of information that have been lost to the generation that now knows cars, but not Model T's.

The "parking" lever was never to be trusted. It earned that distinction many times over. **A rock under a wheel was safer.**

Head gaskets were 72 cents a dozen, and I never knew a "T" model that didn't have a warped "head." Perhaps the factory fresh ones were flat milled, but I would not know about that. At any rate every boy could change a gasket in about 10 minutes. Sometimes you put in two, which lasted a bit longer, but cheated on power.

Today's drivers know that a "squeak" means bad news somewhere, but in the "T" model it only meant a trip to Walnut creek to soak the **wood wheels**. Water instead of oil was the solution of the day.

Now speaking of water --- all model "T's" leaked! It was a rite of passage and some owners even carried jugs of water. Before the days of "stop leak" we used flax seed. When flax seed was added to the radiator it swelled up and found the nearest escape route to plug. The bigger the leak - the more flax seed.

Tires. Patch kits were standard equipment. A tin box with a small tube of cement, a tiny scraper and a surely of 1x1 rubber patches did the trick. All high school boys, and some girls, were experienced at jacking the car, pulling the tube, and finding the leak. By the way it was usually easier to do this with the wheel attached. rather than removing it. A ratchet jack and a stand-up air pump fit under the seat. If test water wasn't readily available spit would do.

An "ugga" horn was the "T" model's voice although there was one model that had a kind of a crank lever squawk but I don't remember how that worked.

The finishing touch was to put the saxophone behind the seat before your girl got in.

Oh. The model T was a memory everyone should have.

"The Spencer Repeating Rifle: Additional Information"

By: Phillip Jackson, Jr.

As a result of many very good questions I was asked about my Model 1860 Spencer Repeating Rifle which was part of the Memorial Day displays at the Historical Society Museum, I have decided to take time to write a piece for the Bulletin with more information about the Spencer.

Many people were surprised to learn a Spencer Rifle with a 30 inch barrel weighs ten pounds. As an extension of this fact some ; people thought John T. Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade, since it rode horses, would be armed with Spencer Carbines with their shorter barrels and lighter weight.

The answer to these observations is the fact that Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade pioneered the use of Spencers in any form during the Civil War and Spencer Rifles with long, 30 inch barrels were what the Spencer Repeating Rifle Company manufactured first, and had available, when the Lightning Brigade was armed with Spencers.

An interesting additional note here is that my Spencer Rifle has a serial number approximately 150 digits lower than what is believed to be the very first pre-production prototype Spencer Carbine, which carried a rifle serial number.

CONTINUED ON NEXT PAGE

I still have the dealer's statement showing the total price \$36. and credit for \$11, leaving \$25 - my first "buying on time!" Where I got the \$11, I don't remember.Bob Mitchell

It was learned that Spencer Rifles were basically oversized and over weighted for mounted use, and thus carbines for Cavalry use began production and eventually far outnumbered the quantity of Spencer Rifles produced.

But Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade was without question armed with Spencer Rifles. Carbines were not in production yet. General Wilder's personal Spencer was a rifle. And all photographs (2) of members of Wilder's Mounted Lightning Brigade show the men armed with long barreled Spencer Repeating Rifles.

Some historians, when writing erroneously that Wilder's men were armed with Spencer Carbines, must not be aware of these basic facts.

The Model 1860 Spencer Repeating Carbine with short barrel weighs about eight pounds and fires the same .56-.56 copper cased rimfire cartridge as do Model 1860 Spencer Repeating Rifles. Later Spencers were chambered for other cartridges, but these other Spencers were post-Civil War production.

Another good question I have been asked is, wasn't there some similarity between the Spencer and the Sharps Rifles? The Sharps Rifles and Spencer Rifles used during the Civil War have a very similar look. Both have barrels 30 inches long with forearms that extend to within a few inches of the muzzles. Both are "lever action" rifles. But the Sharps is a single-shot breechloading rifle, not a repeater. The action on a Sharps is called a falling block.

During the Civil War the Sharps, like the Spencer, came in two forms, carbine and rifle. The Sharps Carbine ranks second to the Spencer Carbine in the total number used by Union Cavalry. While the Sharps Rifle is thought of as a "Sharpshooter's" rifle, in other words, a long range sniper's rifle.

Sharps Rifles and Carbines from the Civil War do not fire metallic cartridges. They are percussion firearms and require percussion caps, or a special Sharps device that takes the place of a percussion cap, to fire their cartridges, which are wrapped either in cloth or paper.

Later Sharps Rifles from the 1870s used for long range target shooting and buffalo hunting fired huge centerfire cartridges, some reaching amazing lengths and firing up to .50 caliber bullets, while carrying large loads of black powder.

Sharps breechloading single shot Rifles and Carbines were very important for the Union Armies. But the total number of Spencers far outnumbers the total quantity of Sharps Rifles and Carbines used during the Civil War.

While another important point to realize is that the number of Spencers used during the Civil War, in both Rifle and Carbine form, also outnumbers the total quantity of Henry Rifles used, in this case about ten to one. The Spencer's cartridge was also considerably more powerful than a Henry's. The Henry Rifle is the ancestor of the Winchester.

And the Colt Revolving Rifle, another Civil War repeater, was not produced in very large numbers and was very heavy and also very dangerous because of its tendency to "chain fire" which resulted in serious injury to the shooter.

The Spencer Repeating Rifle is the premier small arm of the Civil War. And Greensburg's own General John T. Wilder introduced its use in large numbers, ushered in new and modern combat methods, and developed from theory to practice the tactics which ultimately led to Union victory.

At a later time I intend to explain some important ideas on how Greensburg and Decatur County can capitalize on the importance of John T. Wilder and our loyal Civil War era citizenry and turn these historic facts into a major tourist attraction and object of local pride.

The Spencer Repeating Rifle is the premier small arm of the Civil War. And Greensburg's own General John T. Wilder introduced its use in large numbers...

Phillip Jackson Jr.

TREE Theatre

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Pests That Came to Dinner

Wednesday and Thursday

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News and "Skiing is Believing"

K of P Theatre

Last time Tonight (Jan. 16, 1950)

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Tues. Wed. Thurs.

Bob Hope**" The Great Lover**

with Rhonda Fleming, Roland Culver and
Roland Young

News and Other Selected Shorts

I am truly grateful to **Bob Mitchell** and **Phillip Jackson Jr.** for their contribution for this Bulletin and always to **Diana** for her descriptive narrative about the museum activities. As you will surely agree, the contributions help improve The Bulletin. I wish you would consider sending in some of your own thoughts. If you write like **Hemingway** - fine, but we'd enjoy reading it in your own style. That's the best style going. Please also send your suggestions for the Bulletin to **Pat Smith**, 122 W. Sheridan, Greensburg, IN 47240.

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if you feel generous
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to be included in the
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If your dues are due please use this form to send them to the address below.

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P.O. Box 163 Greensburg, IN 47240

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